



# Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida

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COL Joe R. Miller  
District Engineer  
US Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 4970  
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

June 20, 2000

SUBJECT: Tamiami Trail Modifications

Dear COL Miller:

I am writing to express the Miccosukee Tribe's concerns over the raising of Tamiami Trail. For decades, the Miccosukee Tribe has advocated that Tamiami Trail should be raised up on stilts along its entire length. Finally, the COE has concurred in this assessment. At a minimum, the section between 40 Mile Bend and Krome Avenue should be elevated. The presence of Tamiami Trail presents a significant impediment to the natural flow of water southward into Everglades National Park. More importantly, the presence of Tamiami Trail causes water to back up and pond north of the Trail and causes over-drainage conditions south of the Trail. Impacts to wildlife are tremendous. Wildlife deaths occur on a daily basis along Tamiami Trail.

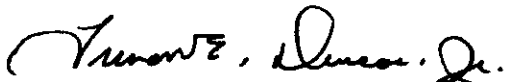
While we recognize the valid need to raise Tamiami Trail, the Tribe would like to make the following concerns known to the Corps of Engineers:

1. Presence of Tigertail Camp. COE plans cannot interfere with the traditional use and occupancy of the Tigertail family along the northern banks of the L-29 canal.
2. Presence of the Osceola Camp. COE plans cannot interfere with the traditional use and occupancy of the Osceola family along the southern edge of Tamiami Trail.
3. Tamiami Trail should be on stilts. Simply raising the road bed or installing additional bridges (the hydrologic solutions) will not prevent the continued loss of wildlife along Tamiami Trail.
4. Wood Stork Rookery. There is an active Wood Stork rookery located along the southern edge of Tamiami Trail. Their population has been estimated at 1800 breeding pairs. This needs to be factored into your decision.

5. Traffic Control. Tamiami Trail is a very busy highway. Steps must be taken to avoid traffic delays during construction. Tamiami Trail has been designated as a Hurricane Evacuation Route and cannot be obstructed. Additionally, police, fire and ambulance service must never be obstructed.
6. Impacts to Business. There are several businesses located along Tamiami Trail. Every effort should be taken to avoid impacts to their legal rights.
7. Surface Water Run-Off. After Tamiami Trail has been elevated onto stilts and the Old Trail removed, historic flows will have been returned. However, it may be necessary to leave small portions of the Old Trail intact to provide a treatment area for surface water run off from the highway. These islands of Old Trail could also serve as ramps which would allow access to the existing businesses and camps along the highway.

The Miccosukee Tribe wishes to be consulted every step of the way, as the COE develops plans to raise Tamiami Trail. Thank you for including the Tribe's concerns in your planning efforts. If you have questions concerning these comments or the Tribe's concerns, please do not hesitate to call me at (305) 223-8380, extension 2240.

Sincerely yours,



Truman E. Duncan, Jr.  
Water Resources Director

cc.  
Billy Cypress, Tribal Chairman  
Dexter Lehtinen, Tribal General Counsel  
Tigertail Camp  
Osceola Camp